

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 123691
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBIE-00 CIAE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00
HA-05 SY-05 /023 R

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P 152307Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, ASEC, UR, US (BORTNYK, MIKHAIL

SUBJECT: DEATH OF SOVIET PRIVATE VISITOR

REF: MOSCOW 123532

1. BORTNYK CASE BECAME CONTENTIOUS ISSUE WITH SOVIET CONSUL PONOMAREV COB MAY 15 BECAUSE SCHEDULED MAY 16 FUNERAL IS NOT BEING POSTPONED AS WISHED BY SOVIET EMBASSY, AND BECAUSE DEPARTMENT DECLINED TO GRANT 24-HOUR NOTIFICATION EXCEPTION FOR SOVIET CORRESPONDENT TO TRAVEL TO PHILADELPHIA TO COVER CASE.

2. PONOMAREV INSISTED THAT SOVIET LAW REQUIRES THAT WISHES OF WIFE IN USSR BE ASCERTAINED BEFORE BURIAL TAKES PLACE. DEPTOFF NOTED THAT SOVIET LAW DOES NOT GOVERN IN U.S. AND EXPLAINED THAT FAMILY IN U.S. HAD SPOKEN WITH WIFE BY PHONE, SHE HAD NOT OBJECTED TO BURIAL IN U.S., AND FAMILY
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DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH BURIAL.

3. DURING HEATED PHONE CONVERSATION, PONOMAREV NOTED THAT BORTNYK HAD DIED IN U.S. POLICE STATION, AND SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS HE HAD "NOT DIED OF HIS OWN WISH".

4. SOVIET VICE CONSUL KUBANOV IS TRAVELLING TO PHILADELPHIA

TO SEE CORPSE AT FUNERAL HOME EVENING MAY 15 AND PRESUMABLY
CONSULT POLICE ABOUT CASE.

5. ABOVE IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION SHOULD MFA
RAISE CASE IN MOSCOW.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780557/aaaabwhp.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cf62c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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